



NEWS RELEASE

SBA Number : 06-03-1027
Release Date: Immediate

Contact: Rachel Baranick
714-550-7420 x 3702
e-mail Rachel.Baranick@sba.gov

Local Center Helps Kuta Grill

Santa Ana, Calif. – When Lena and her husband, Arsyal, first arrived at the Orange County Small Business Development Center, they came with the dream of owning and operating their own restaurant. The restaurant industry was familiar to them as Arsyal had over twelve years of training and experience as a chef working for several local establishments. Lena had worked for various local food service businesses over ten years including holding the position of restaurant manager at a local restaurant. To round the team, Lena’s mother, Renee Harris, also joined this partnership to add her experience in food service.

The Orange County Small Business Development Center provided assistance in getting their business started, informed them of available financing options as a minority-owned and women-owned business, and assisted in writing the all important business plan. Together with her business consultant Lena developed the business plan and was able to identify potential problems they had not considered.

Approximately a year later, Lena and Arsyal’s opened KUTA Grill in Foothill Ranch, CA. This upscale fusion style restaurant that started as a dream became a reality. The three partners combined their resources from personal savings and home equity loans along with a traditional SBA guaranteed loan from Wells Fargo and a line of credit to open their doors. As a result KUTA Grill also created 50 new jobs.

The Orange County Small Business Development Center provides technical assistance and training to small business entrepreneurs and can be reached at (714)564-5200 or on their website at www.ocsbdc.com . The program is funded through a cooperative agreement between the U.S. Small Business Administration, California State University Fullerton and Rancho Santiago Community College District.

For more information on SBA programs call the Santa Ana District Office at (714)550-7420 or visit our website at www.sba.gov.

###